

the Delivery Service Branch of the Postal Service Management Academy in Potomac, Maryland. By the spring of 1982, he began working in the Government Relations Department at the U.S. Postal Service Headquarters in Washington, DC. In 1992, he was promoted to the position of Government Relations Manager; a Postal Career Executive position.

Since then he has managed government relations activities with many Members of Congress, addressing an ever expanding variety of postal-related issues. He has also served as the principal postal contact for the House Appropriations Committee and the Financial Services Appropriations Subcommittee. While the Postal Service receives only minimal funding to support free mail for the blind and overseas voters, Mitch has been an extraordinary resource to us in addressing a host of postal issues which have arisen in our committee.

Mitch and his wife, Mickey Fenyk-King, recently celebrated their 35th anniversary. Now, they look forward to having more time to spend with family and friends and to exploring the world together. They have surely earned our thanks and congratulations for a job well done and our very best wishes for their journey ahead.

HONORING KATE DONAGHUE

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, Kate Donaghue from Westborough, Massachusetts for her outstanding service to the people of my district and my home state of Massachusetts. On Sunday, April 26 of this year, Kate will be this year's recipient of the Democrat of the Year award from the Middlesex Worcester Coalition in appreciation for her lifetime of service.

For over 20 years Kate has given countless hours of her time to help promote social and political change in Massachusetts. Kate has been an avid volunteer with many groups and has worked tirelessly for the greater good for more than 40 years. She has served as an elected member of the Massachusetts State Democratic Committee for the past 13 years and has served in many capacities with the party. She is one of the founding chairpersons of the Middlesex Worcester Democratic Coalition and is also a board member of the recently formed Worcester Democratic League. She has also represented her district at countless state and national conventions.

Kate is also the founder of the widely read Donaghue's Democratic Dispatch, which she founded in 2000. This popular email newsletter provides information about political and civic events that are happening across the commonwealth. Thanks to her efforts, thousands of individuals are kept abreast about how to be engaged in local and national political efforts.

Kate has also worked tirelessly to get others involved in community service efforts. She has helped organize Earthday Clean-ups, food drives and clothing drives.

Madam Speaker, I commend Kate Donaghue for her dedication to Massachusetts and the political community in promoting activ-

ism in politics throughout the community. I congratulate Kate on receiving this award and I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this fine example of civic engagement.

94TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 94th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. It is morally imperative that we remember this atrocity and collectively demand reaffirmation of this crime against humanity.

For thousands of years, the Armenian people have been known for their perseverance in the face of great challenges. Today we honor the victims and survivors of the Armenian Genocide. We pay our respects to the Armenian people for their strength to overcome adversity.

It is a somber day as we reflect on the victims of the Armenian Genocide, the continued denial by the Turkish government, and our own government's inaction in using the word genocide to describe these events.

There is an absurdity about Turkey's inability to recognize its own past and something deeply disturbing about our government's complacency in this misrepresentation of history.

The Armenian Genocide is the first genocide of the twentieth century. Between 1915 and 1923, 1.5 million Armenians were systematically and deliberately killed by the Ottoman Turks.

Our own National Archives and writings from the U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, display how the Ottoman government specifically decided to target the Armenians, move them towards what is the modern day Syrian Desert, and butcher men, women, and children.

It is a disturbing history, but one that needs to be retold, remembered, and reaffirmed to ensure its legacy and rightfully honor its victims and survivors.

We have stood by for too long as the Turkish government manipulates the issue of the Armenian Genocide. We have watched them pay millions of dollars to Turkish lobbyists to mislead and even threaten members of Congress. We have watched the Turkish government bring scholars and writers to court for insulting Turkishness just for writing the words Armenian Genocide. And two years ago we watched in profound disbelief when Hrant Dink was assassinated in Istanbul.

It is enough.

Armenian Genocide Recognition is not only important for Armenians, it is important for us as Americans. If we are going to live up to the standards we set for ourselves and continue to lead the world in affirming human rights everywhere, we need to stand up and recognize the Armenian Genocide.

To not do so sends a message that we are complicit in Turkey's denial. By not affirming the Armenian Genocide, we fail as Americans to take a stand against all genocides and we fail to end genocide denial.

We can reverse this path and officially speak the truth. We as Americans and as an

entire international community must recognize the Armenian Genocide so that we can renew our commitment to prevent such atrocities from occurring again.

I am hopeful that the U.S. Government can stand behind our statements and our promises.

HONORING CODY WAYNE JOHNSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Cody Wayne Johnson a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 70, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Cody has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Cody has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Cody Wayne Johnson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING ADDIE GREEN

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize and extend my congratulations to the Honorable Addie Green on the occasion of her retirement from elected office. Ms. Green will retire as County Commissioner for District 7 in Palm Beach County, and can look back on a proud career of service and distinction in community leadership.

Though she is a native Alabamian, Ms. Green has been a resident of Palm Beach County since 1965. She graduated from Stillman College with a Bachelor of Science degree and went on to receive her Masters Degree in Education from Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University in Tallahassee, Florida.

Ms. Green served as Mangonia Park's Vice Mayor in 1988 and Mayor in 1991. In 1992, she was elected to the Florida House of Representatives and served four consecutive terms as the District 84 Representative. While serving in the Florida House of Representatives from 1995 to 1998, I had the pleasure of working with Ms. Green. During her State tenure, she served on several influential House committees and was instrumental in securing vital resources for Palm Beach County.

The appropriations Ms. Green worked diligently to bring to Palm Beach County included: \$1.35 million for the Mangonia Residence for senior citizens; \$751,000 for Floridians stricken with Parkinson's disease; \$250,000 for the Belle Glade Business Park Wages Program to create new jobs; tax relief for NOAH, an organization that provides affordable housing to more than 400 families in

the Glades; \$249,000 for the renovation of the Lake Park Library; \$500,000 for the St. Mary's Medical Center Children's Emergency Room Wing; \$500,000 for Home Safe; and \$100,000 for project SOAR Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies.

Moreover, Ms. Green has helped to secure funding for projects beneficial to the Palm Beach community such as an aquatics facility in Riviera Beach, the Dan Calloway Recreation Complex, the Northwest Community Center, the Spady House Museum and C. Spencer Pompey Amphitheater in Delray Beach, the Wilson Recreation Center and Pool Renovation, the 1916 County Courthouse Restoration, and the 4-H Community Gardens. She arranged recreational and cultural funding in support of Heritage Fest, Children's Outreach, Mt. Olive Community Outreach Center, Roots Festival, the Soul of Delray, Annual Jazz & Blues Festival in Riviera Beach, Salvation Army, Teen Partnership Coalition, Operation Hope, and a host of school-based programs.

With the concerted efforts of many individuals and business leaders in the community, Ms. Green was able to organize the first Homeless Task Force for Palm Beach County. In 2007, she was named "Commissioner of the Year" by the Florida League of Cities for her extraordinary efforts of presiding over tough County transitions and improved relationships with cities throughout South Florida.

I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to work side by side with Commissioner Greene and it is a privilege for me to have this opportunity to recognize her before the esteemed House of Representatives. Now, in retirement, she embarks upon new challenges in life and I am certain her legacy of greatness will only grow and develop as she enters this new phase of life. I wish her every happiness and success.

HONORING RODNEY JOHN DIRIDON
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 70TH
ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BIRTH

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Rodney John Diridon, "Rod," on the 70th anniversary of his birth. In addition to celebrating the commemoration of a life well spent, I would like to acknowledge the dedication he has exemplified in serving the Valley of Santa Clara for over half of his life.

Diridon, the son of an immigrant Italian railroad brakeman, has focused on transportation issues for decades. A most effective proponent of public transportation, Rod Sr. is considered the "father of modern transit" in Santa Clara County and credited with countless achievements including building the light rail system. He is a former member of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and a former candidate for the California State Assembly.

Upon his retirement from public office in 1994, the main train station in San Jose was

renamed "The Diridon Station" in his honor. He currently heads the Norman I. Mineta Transportation Institute at San Jose State University, and is a former chairman of the board of the High Speed Rail Authority.

Rod's service to his community and country started much earlier in his life. From 1963 to 1967 he served in the U.S. Navy as a Fleet Officer and Combat Duty Officer in Vietnam.

In 1969, Diridon founded the Diridon Research Corporation, later renamed Decision Research Institute (DRI) in 1972. DRI conducted market research, needs assessment surveys and legislative consulting throughout the United States. As founder and president he developed a "shared survey" research procedure subsequently adopted by the UNICEF of the United Nations.

His political career began in 1972 as the youngest person ever elected to the Saratoga City Council. He retired because of term limits, after completing 20 years and six terms as chairperson of both the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and Transit Board. He is the only person to have chaired the San Francisco Bay Area's (nine counties and 104 cities) three regional governments: the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and the Association of Bay Area Governments.

To find the basis for Rod's call to public service, one need only look at his family's roots. Rodney John Diridon was born in Dunsmuir, California in 1939 to Claude and Rhoda Diridon. As the son of Italian immigrants, Rod's father, Claudius Diridoni was compelled to change his name when bigotry in the railroad employment system kept him from being hired. After becoming a union member, Claude was protected from discrimination, thus starting the Diridon family's long appreciation of organized labor.

Although Rod was dyslexic, through hard work and determination, he was a good student and member of championship football teams in high school. While working his way through college as a railroad trainman, he attended Shasta Junior College and Chico State, each for one year. He then transferred to San Jose State University, where he was a student leader, and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and an MSBA in Statistics.

He was married to Mary Ann Fudge from July 4, 1964 until 1999 and raised two children, Rodney Jr. born September 10, 1969, and Mary Margaret, born September 14, 1971. On June 10, 2001 he married Dr. Gloria Duffy.

Rod has chaired over 100 international, national, state and local community service programs and projects, most related to transit and the environment. He served, in 1993, as the chairperson of the American Public Transit Association in Washington, D.C., and more recently as the North American Vice President of the International Transit Association in Brussels. He has been an advisor to the Federal Transit Administration and in 1995 chaired the National Research Council's Transit Oversight and Project Selection Committee. Rod chaired the NRC's Transportation Research Board's study panel on "Combating Global Warming Through Sustainable Transportation Policy." He is frequently asked to provide testimony to Congressional Committees.

Diridon has received published recognition and numerous awards for his contributions

and has served on numerous organizations committed to community service at the national, state, regional and local levels. He has been most involved with transportation, the environment, arts and human rights fund-raising and advocacy.

INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL
COMMISSION ON EMPLOYMENT
AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT
OF 2009

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the National Commission on Employment and Economic Security Act of 2009.

This legislation is a necessary and vital investment in the people of the American workforce and their families. This bill will establish a national commission to examine issues of economic and psychological insecurity within our workforce that have been caused by employment displacement. Further, it will propose solutions, including recommendations for legislative and administrative action, to Congress and the President.

Since the recession began in December 2007, more than 5.1 million jobs have been lost. Last month, the national unemployment rate reached an unprecedented 8.5 percent, the highest it has been since the recession of 1983 and it is much higher in many states like Florida, at 9.7 percent, and it has topped 12.6 percent in Michigan.

Over the past year, unemployment rates have increased in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The scope of the economic downturn is so large that its impact is felt virtually everywhere along the economic spectrum.

While Americans lose their jobs and their incomes shrink, too often, they face the loss of their family's health insurance and, subsequent to the loss of income, even their housing. According to a September 2008 survey by the American Psychology Association, 80 percent of Americans say the economy is a significant cause of stress, an increase from 66 percent since April 2008. Perhaps even more disturbing, calls to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline have increased by more than 20 percent from January 2008 to January 2009.

Madam Speaker, the mental health of the American worker will be integral on the road to economic recovery and Congress must face this problem head on and help the very people who are facing unemployment, loss of health insurance, home foreclosure, stress, increased violence, and depression. It is time that we create this Commission and get our nation back on track.

We have a solemn responsibility to ensure the greatest possible assistance to the American workforce, whose commitment to economic participation has been a defining feature of the cultural fabric of our country. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.